

Amendment to Claim 1

Notwithstanding Applicant's contention that the prior art does not disclose an upper clamping member that is cantilevered as required by claim 1, for all of the reasons discussed above, claim 1 is amended to provide an alternative recitation in case the Examiner would find it more acceptable. It is hoped that the new language will make it sufficiently clear that, as explained in previous correspondence, a bending force must be applied to the upper clamping member before any clamping force is applied to the knife, which is a feature unlike anything disclosed in the prior art of record.

3. Interlocking Portions

Claim 20, reciting "interlocking portions," includes language that distinguishes over the prior art that the Examiner has, apparently, not taken into account. That is, "said interlocking portions mee[t] so as to define an angle ϕ *with respect to said first direction* that is in the range 45 - 60 degrees" (emphasis added), where the "first direction" is defined as being: "toward the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt."

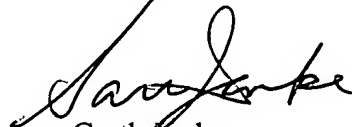
The claim therefore specifies how the angle is to be measured. Particularly, the surfaces that meet to form an interlocking pair are required to define an angle of 45 - 60 degrees *relative to a direction that is perpendicular to the axis of the clamping bolt.*

None of the cited art meets this requirement. This is evident in both Figure 7 of Crammond and Figure 3 of Bielagus as annotated by the Examiner in the Office Action, copies of which are attached (as Exhibits 5 and 6 respectively) with further annotations to show that a line

L1, which runs along the axis of the clamping bolt, and a line L2, which defines the interface between the "interlocking portions" as alleged by the Examiner, are parallel. Therefore, the angle between them is *zero*, not 40 - 65 degrees as claimed.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are all in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garth Janke", written over the printed name.

Garth Janke

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